

REPORT URGING FREE TRADE
FOR PUERTO RICO SUPPRESSED

Formed the Basis of McKinley's Recommendation to Congress.

Special Commissioner Carroll, Who Made the Investigation at the Instance of the President, Strongly Favored Abolishing Customs Duties.

Washington, March 16.—The Republic is advised that the country, the chief body of the President's recommendation in his message for free trade between the United States and Puerto Rico, was suppressed. A special Commissioner, Mr. Carroll, was appointed to investigate the island and report on the subject. His report, which was a strong recommendation for free trade, was suppressed. The President, Mr. McKinley, was strongly in favor of free trade with Puerto Rico. He believed that it would be a great benefit to the island and to the United States. He believed that it would bring the island into the United States and that it would be a great benefit to the island and to the United States. He believed that it would bring the island into the United States and that it would be a great benefit to the island and to the United States.

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PUERTO RICO APPROPRIATION
BILL PASSED BY THE SENATE.

Washington, March 16.—After a debate of two days, the Senate today passed the Puerto Rican relief appropriation bill. The measure carries \$2,000,000. The President is authorized to use that sum "for public education, public works and other governmental and public purposes" in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Allen of Nebraska offered an amendment to the bill declaring that the Constitution extends over Puerto Rico by its full force, but it was lost by the decisive vote of 20 to 10.

Mr. Jones of Arkansas withdrew a free trade amendment offered by him, and that proposition, therefore, did not reach a vote. Other efforts to amend the bill were fruitless.



JOHN BULL, "THAT NOISE MAKES ME NERVOUS"

AMERICAN WARSHIP
ORDERED TO CHINA.

United States to Maintain the Open Door Policy in That Empire.

Washington, March 16.—The State Department today ordered the Navy Department to send a warship to China because of the threatening condition of affairs there.

FRANCO-RUSSIAN MOVEMENT.

Indications That They Intend to Demand Compensation for Their Neutrality in Boer War.

Washington, March 16.—The State Department today announced that it had received information from the French government that it intended to demand compensation for its neutrality in the Boer war.

GENERAL WAR NEWS.

A dispatch from Buenos Aires says that the Boer resistance is a serious matter. It is reported that several prominent Boer leaders have been captured.

It is reported from Pretoria, Free State, that the Boer resistance is a serious matter. It is reported that several prominent Boer leaders have been captured.

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LEADING TOPICS
TO-DAY'S REPUBLIC.

For Missouri—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; fresh westerly winds, becoming variable.

For Illinois—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; fresh westerly winds.

For Arkansas—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Texas—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Louisiana—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Mississippi—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Alabama—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Georgia—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Florida—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For South Carolina—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For North Carolina—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Virginia—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For West Virginia—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Maryland—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Delaware—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Pennsylvania—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For New Jersey—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For New York—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Connecticut—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

For Rhode Island—Fair and warmer Saturday and Sunday; variable winds, shifting to southeasterly.

BOER RESISTANCE
MAY COLLAPSE.

Report That Prominent Generals Desert Them.

NO FREE STATE NOW.

Dispatches Say Kruger Has Annexed Steyn's Territory.

CONVERGING MOVE.

British Coming Together Along Orange River.

BY MILTON V. EVERTS.

London, Saturday, March 17.—(Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.) Late dispatches from South Africa predict a speedy ending of the Boer war. Not only has the Free State opposition broken down, but from Lorenzo Marques comes a statement, apparently on good authority, that recent arrivals from Pretoria affirm that the Transvaal leaders about that their cause is hopeless, that two of their generals, Louis Meyer and Schalk Burger, have left the Boer army and retired to their farms and that hundreds of Boers who have been engaged in fighting in Natal are doing likewise. Presidents Kruger and Steyn are apparently doing everything possible to stem the tide, as shown by their proclamation that the Free State has been annexed by the Transvaal and that the seat of government of the former is now Pretoria.

At the same time it is recalled here that General Buller is likely to maneuver in such a manner as to gain time, which might give an opening for such a possibility as the action of a foreign Power of Powers and, as feared in certain quarters, give rise to some other war for Great Britain.

That this latter contingency is by no means thought impossible is shown by an article in the Morning Post, which says: "It is to be expected that the British Government should be directed. The first step is to shorten the time by pushing the war in South Africa with all energy."

The second step is to spare no exertion to have the navy ready for any possible situation. John Bull, it is thought, has the strongest possible army made ready at hand.

At the same time, no measures that may conduce to strengthening the arms in India should be neglected. Coasting stations and naval bases should all be made ready as though a maritime war were expected.

CLEMENTS CROSSES THE ORANGE. Lord Roberts is Lord Roberts. He sent the following dispatch to the War Office: "Bloemfontein, Friday, March 16.—General Buller crossed the Orange River yesterday. Reports to the railway bridge at Nuy's Post have commenced and it will shortly be ready for traffic."

General Buller's progress is practically in full communication with Cape Town. His proclamation is already having excellent effect. Several hundred burghers have expressed their intention to surrender their arms and return to their occupations.

The British "Commander of Reserves" reports that 80 Boers lately arrived from Bloemfontein and that a further contingent from Alwal North was only waiting to know the terms of his proclamation to surrender. They had refused to attend a council at Kroonburg, which President Steyn had summoned them to.

Interest also centers largely this morning about the Boer forces in the south of the Orange Free State, and the converging movement being directed against them by British, German, Dutch, and Boer forces. Their strength is variously estimated at from 2,000 to 3,000, the latter figure being more likely to be correct. They were in the neighborhood of Bethulle, Alwal North and Nuy's Post on Thursday, but have since vanished from Alwal North.

Hasn'tland Boers. One Boer commander is seen back into Hasn'tland, and according to dispatches, is there waiting to surrender upon learning the terms of Lord Roberts's proclamation.

General Buller has arrived at Springfontein and is in position to add his force to that of Clements or Gaicere as the situation demands. General Buller has three thousand men on the Orange River and a small party of about a hundred men.

General Buller has effected a crossing at Nuy's Post to the east of Nuy's Post, which is also on the north of the river at Alwal North. He is reported to be confronted by Boers, who are on the hills and have Krupp guns. He is hampered by lack of artillery.

The question seems to be not whether the Boers will contest the advance of these three forces, but whether they will succeed in making good their retreat with the railway and the Boers threatening it.

Lord Roberts reports that resistance in the south part of the Free State is collapsing. Several hundred burghers have decided to surrender and return to their farms.

The preceding reports almost verge upon comic opera. It could hardly have been expected that the capital of the country would receive an invading army with open arms or decorate and make demonstrations in honor of the enemy's success. If these reports are accurate, there is apparently only one explanation; that is, that the Free State is tired of the war and anxious to make peace regardless of the action of the Transvaal.

Lord Roberts has taken two months to make out a report on the disaster at Magerfontein, and apparently then only on pressure from Lord Roberts, the latter has forwarded it to London with what seems to be contemptuous absence of comment and chilling silence.

The whole effect of the report is to throw the blame on two dead men—General Buller and Lord Roberts.

It is understood that all the Continental Powers, with one exception, uncompromisingly refused to intervene. The exception was Russia, whose reply was couched in less firm language, although, like the others, she refused to intervene. It is said that the Pope was also appealed to, but that he declined to do anything, beyond writing a letter to the Queen, appealing to her to stop the further effusion of blood. Doctor Leyde's efforts with King Leopold were quite futile.

The possibility of the destruction of Johannesburg is still discussed here, but it is the whole effect of the report is to throw the blame on two dead men—General Buller and Lord Roberts.

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